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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for

1953



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Atherton Urban District Council

Public Health Committee

Chairman:

Councillor E. DONOGHUE.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor A. HOLLIDAY.

Councillors

W. BARNES
W. BRETT
W. DOBSON
W. J. GEORGE
O. HATTON

H. E. HEYES
P. HUGHES
S. LOVELESS
M. McKIERNAN
H. PARTINGTON

J. J. QUINN
C. ROWLAND
R. SHAW
J. STIRZAKER
C. URMSTON
J. WALSH.

Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

T. PATTON SEWELL, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also:—

Divisional Medical Officer, No. 11 Division, Lancs. C.C.

Divisional School Medical Officer, Lancs. C.C.

**M.O.H. Leigh, M.B.; Horwich U.D.C., Tyldesley U.D.C.,
and Westhoughton U.D.C.**

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

FRANK MARKLAND, M.S.I.A.

Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

THOMAS McGUIRE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., I.S.A.A. (Dip.)

Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

Mrs. J. CARTLEDGE (up to 31/3/53).

Miss M. VALENTINE (part-time).

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1953, together with certain relevant statistical information thereto.

Statistics.

The population of the district, following the Census of 1951, has been notified as 20,596.

During the year there were 318 live births, as compared with 327 the previous year, and only 2 still births. The Live Birth Rate maintains the rise of 1952, being 15.1 per thousand this year, and the Still Birth Rate takes an appreciable decline from 33 to 6 per thousand.

Again I am pleased to report no deaths as a result of child-birth.

Infant Mortality shows an increase, so that the Infantile Death Rate stands at 44, as opposed to last year's 15.

Deaths from all causes totalled 437, being 185 more than the preceding year. The increase is due to the fact that deaths occurring in Atherleigh Hospital were classified as deaths in Part III Accommodation. This has since been rectified for 1954 onwards. In consequence the Death Rate for 1953 is 22.9.

Health Services.

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district.

Essential details of the services provided will be found in Section B of the body of this Report.

Infectious Disease.

There has again been no serious outbreak of notifiable infectious disease in the district during the year. Scarlet fever and measles have been fairly prevalent, but cases on the whole have tended to be mild in character, and complications exceptional.

Sanitary Circumstances.

As previously, the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close review during the year, special attention being paid to food, water supplies, housing, smoke abatement and refuse disposal.

Yours sincerely,

T. PATTON SEWELL.

SECTION A.

Statistics.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population:—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1953 Estimate—20,220.

Number of inhabited houses—6,285.

Rateable Value—£108,892.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£425.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	....	147	166	313
Illegitimate	....	4	1	5
Total		151	167	318

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population).....15.1

Still Births:—		Males.	Females.	Total.
		2	—	2

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 6

Deaths—All Causes:—		Male.	Female.	Total.
		237	200	437

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 21.6

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 22.9

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil.

Infantile Deaths 14

Infantile Death Rate 44

Neo-natal Deaths 9

Neo-natal Mortality Rate..... 28
Adjusted

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS.

	Live Births				Stillbirths		Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal			
									No. of deaths regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births		
Year 1953.....	315	15.1	2	6	437	22.9	nil	nil	14	44	9	28		
Year 1952.....	323	15.2	11	33	252	13.1	nil	nil	5	15	2	6		
Year 1951.....	264	12.9	10	36	275	13.4	nil	nil	2	8	1	4		
Year 1950.....	292	14.0	15	49	240	11.5	1	3.26	7	24	6	21		
" 1949.....	307	14.7	10	32	265	12.8	nil	nil	4	13	—	—		
" 1948.....	316	15.2	13	39	209	10.0	nil	nil	9	28	—	—		
Avgc. 5 years— 1948-1952.....	—	14.1	—	37	—	12.1	—	0.65	—	17.6	—	—		

Adjusted } live birth-rate (comparability factor, 0.96) 15.1 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.05) 22.9 per 1,000.

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953.
Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2
Tuberculosis, other	2	...
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Polio-myelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	...	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	6
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	28	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	...	1
Diabetes .....	...	...
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	35	36
Coronary Disease, Angina	21	12
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	3
Other Heart Disease	30	29
Other Circulatory Disease	8	6
Influenza	5	10
Pneumonia	18	4
Bronchitis	25	11
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	30	47
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	...
All other Accidents	2	4
Suicide	2	2
Homicide and operations of war .....	...	...
TOTAL	237	200

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953, according to Age Groups.

CAUSE	Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	Over 85	Totals
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria
Influenza	1	1	1	1	3	...	7
Measles	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Inf. Encephalitis
Cancer	2	14	4	11	13	8	13	4	2	71
Diabetes	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	8	6	14	25	8	2	77
Intracranial Vascular Lesions,	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	6	14	16	16	25	17	2	100
Heart Diseases	1	...	1	...	2	3	6	4	2	4	2	...	21
Diseases of Circ. System	1	2	3	6	4	2	5	2	1	17
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	1	6	7	5	5	39
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	8	2	7	2	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	2	1	...	...	...	...	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	5	1	...	8
Nephritis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pregnancy, other accidents
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	8
Suicides	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	4
Violence, excluding Suicides	7
Senile Decay	5	1	...	1	5	7	16	2	41
Other defined Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	3	5	...	23
Road Traffic Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
TOTALS	13	1	2	2	...	1	1	3	5	30	26	45	53	63	97	64	30	439

TABLE IV.
CAUSE OF DEATH DURING 1953.
Distribution:—In Wards (compiled locally).

CAUSE.	Hag Fold	North	East	South	West	Central	Atherleigh Hospital	Sex		Total
								Males	F'mles	
Whooping Cough ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ....	....	1	...	1	...	2	..	2	2	4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	2	....	2
Influenza	1	1	....	....	....	....	5	2	5	7
Measles	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Acute Inf. Encephalitis .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cancer	7	4	7	3	9	10	31	42	29	71
Diabetes .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	7	2	6	9	7	39	39	38	77
Heart Diseases	9	11	12	3	15	20	30	61	39	100
Diseases of Circ. System	3	2	4	1	2	1	8	10	11	21
Bronchitis	2	....	5	1	2	....	7	12	5	17
Pneumonia (all forms)....	2	6	4	1	5	1	20	24	15	39
Other Respiratory Diseases ....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	1
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	..	....	....	1	....	....	1	2	....	2
Appendicitis	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases .....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	....	1	2	1	....	3	3	5	8
Pregnancy Other Acc. ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility....	....	2	....	3	1	2	....	7	1	8
Suicides	1	....	....	....	2	1	....	2	2	4
Violence (excluding Suicides) ....	....	1	2	....	....	1	3	3	4	7
Senile Decay	2	2	2	2	1	2	30	13	28	41
Road Traffic Accidents.....	1	....	1	....	1	....	....	2	1	3
Other Causes	1	1	1	1	2	2	15	10	13	23
Totals (All Causes).....	40	38	42	26	51	49	193	238	201	439

TABLE V.

VITAL STATISTICS—Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality. Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infections Diseases in the Year 1953. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
Births: Rates per 1,000 Home Population.				
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	22.4 (u)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
Deaths:				
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.21
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Pseudoephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
Notifications (Corrected):				
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.12
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Measles	12.36	11.27	13.32	8.09
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Pseudoephalitis):				
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non Paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23 (u)	24.33 (u)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (u)
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Deaths. Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All cause under 1 year of age	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

	Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	68	0.10	
A116	Abortion with toxæmia	7	0.01	1
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	166	0.24	
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	90	0.13	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	30	0.04	3
A119	Abortion with sepsis	39	0.06	4
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

SECTION B.

*General Provision of Health
Services for the Area.*

SECTION B.

Ambulance.

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 939.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 83, Railway Road, Leigh.

Clinics.

1. ANTE-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

2. ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

(i) Alder House Clinic.

By arrangement, Monday afternoon of the 2nd and 4th week.

(ii) General Practitioner Service

4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

5. OPHTHALMIC.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday a.m.

6. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley.

2nd Wednesday afternoon each month

7. POST-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

8. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

9. SPEECH THERAPY.

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

10. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC.

Chest Clinic, Church Street, Leigh.

11. VENEREAL DISEASES.

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service.

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service.

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

Two full-time District Nurses employed in the district.

Hospitals.

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Astley Hospital, Astley; Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes.

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lanes. C.C.

Nursing Homes.

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lanes. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by the Lanes. C.C.

Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange, Leigh, and at the Bolton District General Hospital Annexe, Farnworth.

No hostels in the district.

X-ray Facilities.

At Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Church Street, Leigh.

SECTION C.

*Prevalence of
and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.*

SECTION C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Chickenpox (Varicella).

This disease is not notifiable in the district.

Diphtheria.

No case was notified, but the need to protect the community by immunisation remains.

Dysentery.

One case was notified.

Encephalitis.

No case of this infectious disease of the brain was notified.

Erysipelas.

Nine cases were reported during the year. Four were admitted to hospital.

Food Poisoning.

Food poisoning is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No case was notified, either this or the previous year.

Malaria.

No new or relapsed case has been notified.

Measles.

This year the number of cases fell to 104. Last year 494 cases were notified. The disease again tended to be mild in character and without untoward complications.

Meningococcal Infection.

No case notified.

Mumps (Infective Parotitis).

This infection of the salivary glands is not notifiable.

Paratyphoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-five primary cases were reported, as compared with twenty-six the previous year, and there were twenty-two deaths.

Polioencephalitis.

No case reported.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

No case reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case was notified.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty cases were reported, as compared with ninety-seven in 1952.

Smallpox (Variola).

No case occurred in the district during the year under review.

Vaccination and re-vaccination remain our most potent defensive weapons against the disease.

Tuberculosis.

Twenty-four new cases of pulmonary infection and two of non pulmonary infection were notified. Last year there were twelve cases and ten cases respectively.

Six deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

Typhoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Venereal Diseases.

None of the venereal diseases are notifiable in this country.

Whooping Cough.

Forty-one cases were notified.

Mass immunisation holds out the only immediate hope of reducing both the incidence and the morbidity.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1953.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total Cases at all ages.	Years.													
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Diphtheria
Dysentery	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica
Enteric Fever
Erysipelas	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	..	4
Food Poisoning
Measles, excluding German Measles	104	4	1	27	6	19	34	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Meningococcal Infection
Pneumonia	20	2	1	..	1	1	1	3	4	8	5	22	1	..
Acute Polio-encephalitis
Acute Poliomyelitis
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	50	..	1	..	6	27	10	2	..	..	..	..	28	..
Smallpox
Whooping Cough	41	9	5	4	3	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
TOTALS	231	13	18	33	18	27	73	15	1	6	5	13	23	38

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	....	15 .. .	..	2 .. .	..	4	3	6 ...		2	6
Females	....	9 .. .	.	.	.	.	7	1	1 ...	2	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males		2	...	...	...	1	...	1		3	2
Females		...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...

TABLE VII.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER, 1953.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE.	Hag Fold Ward	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals
							M.	F.		
Diphtheria ....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	2	...	2	1	...	3	6	9	4
Food Poisoning ....	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria contracted in:										
(a) England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Abroad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (except German Measles)	34	24	24	6	4	12	43	61	104	2
Meningococcal Infection	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever ....	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	5	9	6	5	...	..	18	7	25	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac Poliomyelitis ....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever	14	12	9	5	5	5	35	15	50	28
Smallpox ....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	5	3	4	1	5	15	9	24	11
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	..	...	...	1	2	...	2	2
Typhoid Fever ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	14	4	12	6	1	4	22	19	41	3
TOTALS	77	56	55	29	13	27	138	119	257	51

TABLE VIII.

Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	5	...	...	...	...	29	13	2	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	...	...	...	...	1	55	17	5	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	6	...	...	...	...	88	19	3	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	9	...	13	44	...	100	7	2	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	...	9	...	2	...	8	25	...	49	2	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	3	...	1	...	5	28	...	52	1	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	...	5	...	4	18	...	42	1	...	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	3	...	...	3	...	1	15	...	78	...	...	...
1936	14.1	11.6	13.2	58	53	1	1	...	...	...	1	12	...	41	...	...	...
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	108	3	...	...	1	...	4	8	...	51	1	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	1	...	5	...	2	8	...	37	...	...	...
1939	14.6	12.04	...	46	34	6	...	...	...	...	2	9	...	70	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	3	695	...	...	1	7	...	88	...	...	...
1941	16.1	12.5	...	75	16	...	...	50	...	...	8	10	...	48	...	...	...
1942	16.5	10.3	...	74	12	5	...	272	...	...	3	10	...	42	...	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	2	2	191	...	...	3	11	...	49	...	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	...	1	382	...	...	2	9	...	70	...	...	...
1945	17.9	11.3	...	23	2	...	...	66	...	...	2	7	...	42	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	511	...	...	...	12	...	22	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	1	77	...	...	...	11	...	79	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	364	...	...	...	11	...	104	...	...	...
1949	14.7	12.8	13.7	13	...	...	...	131	...	...	...	15	...	124	...	...	...
1950	14.0	11.5	12.3	24	...	...	1	415	1	...	3	7	...	28	...	...	...
1951	12.9	13.4	14.2	8	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	12	...	59	...	...	...
1952	15.8	12.4	13.1	15	...	...	...	494	1	...	...	11	...	97	...	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	22.9	44	...	...	...	104	...	2	2	24	...	50	...	...	...

SECTION D.

*Sanitary Circumstances
of the Area.*

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The town's water is derived in bulk from the Manchester and Bolton main supplies. Each house is connected to the mains and has its own internal supply of water of good quality, which is maintained at constant pressure.

The water is bacteriologically examined and analysed at Manchester and Bolton at regular intervals; 22 local samples being so examined during the year under review.

There is a slight tendency to plumbo solvent action, for which it is treated by the supplying authorities before delivery to our mains. The tin lining of all lead service piping is insisted upon.

Streams.

Streams within the district are examined periodically to prevent pollution. There are no dye or artificial silk works in Atherton.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the type known as the Combined System. Extensions to include housing estates were made during the year. Sewage is dealt with by the Leigh Sewerage Board.

Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1953 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz.:—

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Closets attached to these Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	27
Number of Trough Closets	7 (at schools)
Number of Waste Water Closets	841
Number of Fresh Water Closets	6681
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of movable Ashbins	6477
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6258

Conversions during 1953:—

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets....	Nil
Number of Waste Closets to Fresh Water Closets	57
Number of Trough Closets to Fresh Water Closets	Nil

The Council's scheme for the conversion of waste water closets was suspended by the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of war in 1939. An application for permission to resume the conversion of defective and broken waste water closets was allowed during 1952.

Disinfestation.

As previously, 5% D.D.T. solution has been used as a spray for disinfesting houses, supplemented where necessary by the removal of door and window casings, etc., together with scorching with a blow-lamp all exposed affected surfaces.

One privately-owned house was so treated during the year.

Scavenging.

A weekly collection of refuse is operative in the district, utilising four motor vehicles. Approximately 9,000 tons of refuse were collected and removed.

House refuse is finally disposed of at Millers Lane Tip, where the Ministry of Health's regulations in respect of control are practised.

Salvage of paper, metals, kitchen waste, etc., was again maintained throughout the year.

Street sweeping is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is carried out by means of manual labour.

Factories and Workplaces.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. Particulars are contained in Table IX.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The destruction of rats and mice was continued throughout the year at premises within the district.

As a Public Health measure, no charge is made for rat destruction at private houses, but unfortunately there appears to be a belief that this act of grace relieves the occupier of all responsibility, with the result that they do very little to help themselves.

Warlarin is now used extensively in the treatment of business and other premises, and results are very satisfactory.

The onus of ridding premises from rats and mice is on the occupier of the premises, and although the Council is willing to give every assistance in this direction, the Local Authority has the power to take action against any occupier who fails to carry out his obligations.

All the sewers were treated twice, and the usual method of three days' pre-baiting, followed by poison bait, was adopted. On each treatment this work necessitates the baiting of approximately 481 manholes in all parts of the district. Although the relative number of pre-bait "takes" was low, poison baits were placed in the majority of manholes.

Sausage rusk formed the pre-bait, to which Zinc Phosphide was added for the poisoning in the first treatment, and bread mash, plus Arsenical Oxide, was used in the second treatment, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths are owned by the Council, who have installed a modern filtration and chlorination plant. They are maintained in a most satisfactory manner.

Samples of water taken from the plunge bath after a period of considerable usage have, on examination by the Public Health Laboratory, proved to be quite satisfactory.

All the water used for bathing purposes is drawn from the town's supply.

Schools.

The general structure of the schools in the town is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Two houses are registered for this purpose, and generally are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Acts.

There is only one workshop in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold. The sample submitted for examination was satisfactory.

TABLE IX.
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	10	39	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	149	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	5	18	1	—
Total	102	206	14	Nil

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found.	Abated.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	1
Want of Ventilation	1	1	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	2	2	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	2	2	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—
Other offences against the Act	1	1	—
Total	14	14	1

SECTION E.

*Inspection and Supervision
of Food.*

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Places under Inspection.

The number of food premises, by type of business, at the end of 1953, was as follows:—

Grocers	87
Bakers	22
Confectioners	21
Fried Fish Shops.....	19
Butchers	19
Cooked Meats	2
Greengroceries	8
Public Houses	32

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, include:—

					No. of Inspections during 1953
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit & Vegetables	...	17			25
do. Meat & Meat Products	....	2			7
Bakehouses	....	22			194
Fried Fish Shops	....	13			101
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	....	6			33
Sausage, etc., Preparing Premises	....	17			119
Ice Cream Shops	....	68			98

Food Inspection.

Premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of foodstuffs are inspected frequently, and are generally found to be maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Clean Food Bye-laws are now in operation in the town, and after overcoming initial difficulties, the department has obtained the willing co-operation of the majority of food traders.

Premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream have been regularly visited, and considerable improvements in the premises and the finished product have been effected. The “Codes of Practice” evolved by the Lancashire County Council have been adopted in order to maintain uniformity throughout the county.

There are 5 premises registered for the manufacture and 68 for the sale of ice cream.

45 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue test, of which 44 attained Grade 1, and 1 Grade 3.

Food hawkers and their premises are registered and are visited periodically. Generally these are quite satisfactory.

The Slaughter-houses in the district were out of use, due to the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940, the slaughtering being carried out at centralised premises in Leigh.

No special examinations of food stocks or consignments were necessary.

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption was as follows:—

2 tins Cooked Ham	29 lbs.
57 tins Luncheon Meat	30 lbs.
20 tins Stewed Steak	19 lbs.
5 tins Jellied Veal	29 lbs.
14 tins Jellied Pork	84 lbs.
12 tins Tongue	43 lbs.
2 tins Corned Beef	12 lbs.
58 tins Evaporated Milk	54 lbs.
3 tins Full Cream Milk	3 lbs.
3 tins Braised Kidney	2 lbs.
1 tin Rabbit	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
7 tins Soup	7 lbs.
3 tins Salmon	1 lb.
3 tins Shrimps	1 lb.
19 tins Crab Paste	5 lbs.
137 tins Plums	188 lbs.
22 tins Greengages	36 lbs.
6 tins Damsons	6 lbs.
17 tins Apple Puree	21 lbs.
13 tins Peaches	$10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
19 tins Cherries	18 lbs.
5 tins Blackcurrants	$4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
4 tins Apricots	4 lbs.
15 tins Bilberries	15 lbs.
13 tins Grapefruit	13 lbs.
8 tins Strawberries	8 lbs.
23 tins Pears	33 lbs.
4 tins Fruit Salad	7 lbs.
14 tins Peas	12 lbs.
37 tins Tomatoes	43 lbs.
60 tins Quince Jam	90 lbs.
260 packs Cheese	49 lbs.
Bacon	$7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Fudge Fingers	4 lbs.
4 jars Pickles	$2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
8 packets Suet	4 lbs.
Prunes	18 lbs.

Milk Supply.

There are 18 farms in the district, with an approximate total of 250 cows. 59 milk shops are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. In addition, 3 Dealers' Licences for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested", 5 Licences for "Pasteurised" and 3 Licences for "Accredited" Milk were issued by the Council.

Action taken by local authority in relation to:—

(a) Raw Milk:

- (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—
No. of samples 39. No positive 2. No. negative 37.
- (ii) Methylene Blue Test—
No. of samples 39. No satisfactory 37. No. unsatisfactory 2.
- (iii) Sediment tests—
No of samples nil. No. satisfactory nil. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" milk:

- (i) Phosphatase test—
No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (ii) Turbidity test—
No. of samples nil. No satisfactory nil. No unsatisfactory nil.
- (iii) Tuberculosis—
No. of samples 2. No. positive nil. No. negative 2.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

39 samples of raw milk were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, of which 37 were found to be negative and 2 positive, and these latter were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

39 other samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, 37 of which were found to be satisfactory.

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—2.

Results of Ministry investigations during the year arising from notifications by the local authority—

No. of veterinary inspections—4.

No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938—Nil.

No. of animals seized—Nil.

No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation—2.

No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized—nil.

Bakehouses.

22 Bakehouses are registered in the district, and are kept in quite a satisfactory condition.

Ice Cream.

68 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. So far as possible, registrations are restricted to the sale of "pre-packed" ices, or to where "cold-mix" is used. In three instances only is the "hot-mix" used for sale on the premises.

All the premises are visited periodically, and the requirements of the Ice Cream Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act are insisted upon.

24 samples were submitted for examination, of which 23 attained Gr. 1 and one Gr. 3.

Food Premises

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises, are inspected regularly as part of routine work.

Improvements, particularly in respect to cleanliness and washing facilities, have been obtained in a number of instances.

The requirements of the Lanes. C.C. (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, as to registrations of food premises, etc., are carried out.

Clean Food Campaign.

General advice and assistance to shopkeepers and food handlers is given by the Sanitary Inspectors when visiting the premises, and pamphlets have been distributed. Clean Food Bye-laws are now in operation, and, generally speaking, are favourably accepted by the food handlers.

Food Adulteration.

The Lanes. County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this work, and this Council the co-opting body. The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following information:—

A total of 106 samples was obtained; of these 71 were of milk and the 35 others comprised:—

1 Tea.	1 Tomato Ketchup.
1 Dried Peas.	1 Sauce.
2 Ice Cream.	1 Semolina.
1 Cream(canned).	2 Malt Extract with Cod Liver
2 Vegetables (canned).	Oil.
2 Pepper (white).	2 Sulphur Ointment.
1 Treacle.	1 Currants.
3 Glycerin.	1 Raisins.
2 Epsom Salts.	1 Meat Pie.
1 Fruit (canned).	1 Borax.
1 Milk, Condensed (full	1 Bacon.
cream, unsweetened).	2 Mincemeat.
1 Gravy Browning.	2 Ground Almonds.
1 Shredded Suet.	

In addition to the above, two “Appeal-to-Cow” samples were taken during the year.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 3.1 per cent. of extraneous water	Vendor cautioned.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 10 per cent. fat	Vendor notified.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 18.3 per cent. fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.5 per cent. of extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.

SECTION F.

Housing.

SECTION F.

HOUSING.

	Houses.	Flats.
Number of New Houses erected during the year:—		
(i) By the Local Authority	14	20
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	10	—
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		853
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		1336
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		43
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		587
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:—		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers		502
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—		
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By owners		10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	63
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	63
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Numbers of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

E.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	} No figures available.
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	....				
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...					
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	....	....	....
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....	....
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	....	....	....	....

General Inspections.

Houses (including re-visits)	1336
Newly infected houses	177
Schools	36
Factories and Workplaces	176
Bakehouses	294
Food-preparing places	251
Dairies	199
Miscellaneous	292
Shops	433
Total	3194

And in connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair	96	95
Defective W.C.'s	61	61
Choked or defective drains	73	73
Defective plaster of walls, etc.	131	130
Insanitary condition of yards	12	12
House walls damp	81	73
Defective eaves gutters	103	99
Defective window frames, sash cords, etc.	84	81
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	29	29
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, burst pipes, etc.)	241	239
	<hr/> 911	<hr/> 898

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal	....	....	....	....	230
Statutory	....	....	....	....	79

General Conditions.

As is usual with most industrial towns, there is in this district a large proportion of cottage property built in terraces. The average age of this type is from 70 to 80 years, and their condition is moderately well maintained. Other property, also in rows, of a better type, were built about 40 or 50 years ago. A fair number of these are owner-occupied and generally maintained in good condition.

Practically all houses erected since 1920 are of the semi-detached type.

There are no back-to-back houses in the district.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.

In common with most towns, the shortage of houses remains acute. At the end of the year there were over 900 applications for Council houses.

The present requirements are approximately 580 additional houses, chiefly of the two-bedroomed type.

At the end of the year the erection of 48 dwellings was in progress, and a further scheme of 104 dwellings was contemplated.

Fitness of Houses.

Housing remains perhaps the greatest present day public health and social problem. The position and difficulties in the district are, by and large, as elsewhere in the country. When these difficulties resolve themselves demolition of unfit houses can be conducted on a more extensive scale.

Housing Inspection.

Little change is to be reported in the Housing conditions generally.

Housing inspection continued to be one of the chief matters dealt with during 1953, although action under the Public Health and Housing Acts with respect to defective dwellings remained rather difficult, chiefly on account of shortage and high cost of labour.

Despite difficulties, progress is being made in the carrying out of housing repairs.

In view of the acute housing shortage, the consequent retention of unfit houses has an adverse effect on other property in the town, and it is not without some sense of frustration that the work connected with housing is being followed.

With a national building achievement of 300,000 houses per year, it is to be hoped that a greater allocation of new houses will be given to Atherton.

More dwellings and speedier construction will do much to relieve the plight of tenants who are at present condemned to live in worn-out and overcrowded cottages. Unfortunately, the latter section does not appear to have been given the serious consideration it merits, and it is urged that the Council will endeavour to re-house overcrowded householders in addition to lodgers.

Although seven houses were demolished and two closed because of unfitness, it is hoped that the contemplated legislation will provide for adequate repairs to be carried out to controlled property, which are rapidly deteriorating as a direct result of lack of proper maintenance.

There are at least 70 houses in the town requiring demolition, but action cannot be taken until re-housing facilities are available.

An increased allocation of new houses and speedier construction would indeed provide considerable encouragement in our efforts to improve matters.

It is estimated that 580 additional houses, chiefly of the two-bedroomed type, are urgently needed.

SECTION G.

*Atmospheric Pollution
and
Smoke Abatement.*

Atmospheric Pollution.

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method.

	Rainfall in mms.	pH	Tons Insoluble Deposit	per square Soluble Deposit	mile Total Solids	SO ₂ /mg. day 1000cm ²
Alder House.						
January	.... 60	6.9	22.11	7.94	30.05	29.9
February	.... 42	4.3	10.34	8.38	18.72	19.3
March	.... 42	4.5	12.60	6.77	19.37	20.9
April	.... 61	3.9	9.10	5.76	14.86	14.4
May	.... 45	7.0	7.66	14.89	22.55	11.4
June	.... 14	5.1	4.41	2.09	6.50	13.8
July	.... 136	4.3	13.34	11.74	25.08	8.1
August	.... 75	4.5	9.68	7.43	17.11	14.0
September	.... 122	4.6	10.92	5.61	16.53	16.4
October	.... 32	5.3	11.26	3.87	15.13	24.2
November	.... 98	3.9	8.32	7.25	15.57	27.9
December	.... 35	3.9	13.69	5.23	18.92	31.1
Totals	.... 762 mms. (762 mms. = 30.0 in.)	4.8 mean	133.43	86.96	220.39	19.3 mean

St. George's School.

January	.... 25	4.3	18.81	6.60	25.41	27.6
February	.... 39	4.3	13.31	8.87	22.18	23.3
March	.... 37	4.7	13.55	7.87	21.42	23.1
April	.... 56	4.0	7.19	6.74	13.93	15.6
May	.... 42	6.8	11.76	4.92	16.68	9.7
June	.... 46	3.9	5.23	5.74	10.97	15.7
July	.... 123	4.4	7.60	11.90	19.50	7.7
August	.... 81	4.5	5.88	7.22	13.10	13.7
September	.... 116	4.7	8.14	6.50	14.64	20.9
October	.... 36	4.0	14.58	3.71	18.20	30.1
November	.... 100	3.8	7.46	8.15	15.61	32.9
December	.... 31	4.1	9.70	6.95	16.65	41.0
Totals	.... 732 mms. (732 mms. = 28.85 in.)	4.4 mean	123.21	85.17	208.38	21.7 mean

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

This branch of Public Health work is being pursued by Local Authorities in all parts of the country, and it is hoped that as a result of the collaborated efforts of Local Authorities, Industry, and the Fuel Research Station, considerable reduction of atmosphere pollution will be attained.

Smoke Abatement.

37 smoke observations were taken during the year.

The local Gasworks continues to cause considerable nuisance by the emission of volumes of smoke during the retort-charging operations. The Council is anxious to secure the abatement of this nuisance, but this responsibility has now passed to the N.W. Gas Board.

Close co-operation is maintained with industrial firms in efforts to combat the smoke nuisance, but it would appear that only slight improvement can be made until normal pre-war conditions again prevail.

The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is limited to $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes in any half-hour.

SECTION H.

National Assistance Act, 1948
Section 47.

SECTION H.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the provisions of this section as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

SECTION I.

Shops Act.

SECTION I.

SHOPS ACT.

Under the delegated powers from Lancashire County Council, a total of 433 inspections were carried out under the Shops Act, 1950.

Previous standards were not only maintained, but in addition many shop interiors and store-rooms received quite a volume of decorating and cleansing. Rats and mice prevention and proofing is noted in all cases, advice was given and assistance rendered in difficult cases.

Heating, ventilation and lighting were constantly under supervision. Thermometer readings taken and heating adjusted to the type and trade for shops possessing their own peculiarities.

Washing facilities and provision of towels, soaps and nail brushes are well to the fore in the campaign for cleaner food, and assistants pressed to make liberal and diligent use of same. This form of education does have its rewards.

Cleanliness, repair, decorating and lighting of sanitary accommodation has gone on throughout the year, and standard of accommodation proves good.

Welfare of assistants, meal times and staff-rooms in some of the more progressive firms are suitable and adequate, having regard to number of assistants and extent of available accommodation. Seats are provided in all shops employing female staff and Form "K" exhibited.

Records are kept and maintained in shops employing assistants. Note is taken of hours worked, check made of half-holiday provision and employment of young persons. These particulars are recorded and duly despatched on Form S.A.34 to Lancashire County Council.

Any difficulties or problems affecting any or all of the various trades are often discussed with the Local Chamber of Trade, who co-operate whole-heartedly with the Council to obtain smooth administration of the Act.

